



Shongum Sportsmen's Association

P.O. BOX 431
 Hackettstown, NJ 07840
www.shongum.org
 Monthly Newsletter
 2024.Vol.:XLI.Issue:X

Member:
 NRA: #CO-469
 CMP: 015111
 ANJRPC
 ATA
 USPSA/IPSC
 NJSTA

**16 October 2024
 7:30 PM**

Officers

President:
 Rich Gajda 908-892-5422
Vice President:
 John Gumann 973-933-2764
Treasurer:
 Mike Fortunato 973-927-3088
Secretary:
 George Wagner 973-927-7616
Shotgun:
 Don Mercovich 908-319-4478
Rifle:
 Bill Murphy
Pistol:
 Jim Owings 973-383-3208
Membership:
 Greg Forte 201-376-0182
Range Safety:
 Gregory Lynch 908-619-9601
Events, Good and Welfare:
 Robert Miranda 908-798-0315
Operations:
 Wayne Jarvis 908-256-1588
Hunting & Archery:
 Tom Hill 908-637-4665
NRA Training:
 Anthony Ansaldi
Immediate Past-President:
 John Gumann 973-933-2764

Committee Chairpersons

Cowboy Action:
 John Seal 973-601-0397
USPSA/IPSC:
 Ron Gumann 973-478-7018
Pistol League:
 Jim Owings 973-383-3208
Woman's League:
 Elizabeth Mackee 973-303-3207
By Laws:
 Pete Hefferan 973-702-0904
Newsletter Editor:
 George Wagner 973-927-7616
Juniors:
 Bill Murphy
Black Powder:
 Steve Serna 973-601-3779

Phone Numbers

Message Center: 908-637-4991

President Rich Gajda started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rich advised the membership of the passing of Vince Martino, our long time Membership Officer. Vince passed on August 29th. There was no ceremony, but his obituary can be found online and donations can be made in his name. Vince was a good friend and valued member and officer of the club for many, many years. Rich asked everyone to pause, remember Vince, and all of our deceased members in a moment of silence.

Rich reminded all in attendance that the October meeting is also our "Annual Meeting" where officer and director elections are performed. He reminded the membership about we follow Robert's Rules of Order for to conduct our meetings. Members wishing to speak should raise their hand to be recognized.

The minutes for the September meeting were deemed to be correct by the attending membership.

Officers & Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Mike Fortunato read the Treasurer's Report aloud:

Bank Balance (as of Sept 18, 2024): \$45,711.47
 Receipts: \$29,664.78
 Disbursements: \$26,255.72
 Excess Disbursements Over Receipts: \$3,409.06
 Bank Balance (as of Oct 16, 2024) : \$49,120.53

Money Market Fund:
 Available for use: \$28,934.49
 Restricted for Contingencies: \$105,705.00
 Balance (as of July 30, 2024) : \$134,639.49

George Rutkowski/Jack Bowden Fund Balance (as of July 30, 2024) : \$7,088.58

President—Rich Gajda asked if there was any objections to perform the agenda of the Annual Meeting before moving onto the other Officer Reports and business. There we no objections.

(start of Annual Mtg agenda...)

Rich asked Greg Forte /Membership to read the names of all probationary members in attendance, so they could be sworn into full membership, so they could vote. This was completed.

Rich then asked Pete Hefferan, Chair of the Nomination Committee, to review the nominations. Pete asked if there were last any last minute write ins for elections. Being none, he presented the

Slate of Officers up for election as

President: Rich Gajda, Vice President: John Gumann, Secretary: George Wagner, Treasurer: Mike Fortunato, Shotgun: Don Mercovich, Rifle: Bill Murphy, Pistol: Jim Owings, Events: Bob Miranda, Operations: Wayne Jarvis, CRSO: Greg Lynch, Training: Tony Ansaldi, Hunting/Archery: Tom Hill, and Membership: Greg Forte.

and the Slate of Directors expiring 12/2024 up for election as
 Davis Petilo, Rich Van Orten, Imre Von Balin

Rich than stipulated that since the entire slate of officers nominated were running unopposed, he would ask the Secretary to cast a single ballot for the entire slate. Phil Engert (as Acting Secretary given George Wagner's absence this day) verbally cast the slate vote for the membership.

Rich then presented the questions of dues and fees, membership capacity, and membership mtg times and places to the membership. He stated he met with the EC previously to discuss these questions and makes the following recommendations (R1, R2, & R3)

R1—Meeting to remain at the Hopatcong Elk's lodge AND be held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 730pm. Motion to Approve made by Will Jones, 2nd by Nick Dewar. Membership voted all in favor, non opposed. Motion carries.

R2—Dues shall be increased by \$15 to \$220/year. (The last time dues were increased was 2011, where they went from \$175 to \$205). Motion to Approve made by Peter Heffernan, 2nd by Imre Von Balin. Membership voted all in favor, non opposed. Motion carries.

R3- Membership capacity to remain at 1000 maximum. Current membership is at ~700. Note that life members don't count in the total, and we're getting more life members each year. Motion to Approve made by Nick Dewar, 2nd by Tom Lombiase. Membership voted all in favor, non opposed. Motion carries.

Other Annual Mtg news of note. The 2024 Ethics Committed members will remain for 2025. And the Roberts Rules of Order version will follow for 20205 is the 12th Edition.

(resuming normal mtg agenda, President's report...)

Continued progress on catching up on membership backlog and transition to new cloud-based system. Greg and Daisy Forte have taken over Membership responsibilities. They have nearly eliminated the backlog. The Wait List is up to date.

We have an opening for a new tenant. (I will let John address that in his report)

Vice President – John Gumann reported that he and **Wayne Jarvis**/Operations inspected the rental unit atop the clubhouse. Overall, it is in very good shape. A roof leak by the chimney needs to be repaired, some painting needs to be done, and the carpets cleaned. Unfortunately, after re-inspecting the deck, it has been decided the deck needs to be replaced, and we are taking care of that.

John reported that an email blast to the membership was done, and we have one member and another non-member are interested. Our requirement is that that tenant must be a member. We will likely do another email blast to ensure everyone who is interested has a chance to reply, and then narrow the list with interviews. Please see me if you have any interest.

Secretary – No Report.

Shotgun – No Report..

Rifle – Bill Murphy reported the next High Power Rifle Match is Sunday, October 27th. We follow the CMP Cup Match rules. These High Power matches you'll need 50 rounds for the event plus any sighting rounds you use prior to the event. We suggest you bring a shooting mat for the prone segment. The concrete can really be abrasive. The cost is \$7.00 for members, \$10.00 for non-members. Event starts at 10:00 AM, and finishes about Noon time. Please come early to help setup before the match can run.

Pistol – Jim Owings reported. We are still looking for a person to run a 50/50 raffle during this meeting. We would like a member to step forward and volunteer.

Jim reminded all members that you are NOT allowed to go forward of the benches in the Indoor Range to shoot. Jim displayed the Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI) and reminded everyone that every pistol should have an ECI inserted when placed at rest on the bench. These are available for sale in the vending machine at the club and from Jim Owings directly for \$1.

Pistol League—**Nick Dewar** reported. The Pistol League Shooting Programs are now shown on the Website under Activities, Pistol League, icon Upcoming Events.

We concluded our Police "L" Practice for Harrisburg and sent 12 of our Members to the 65th Walt Wise Memorial Pistol Match. We registered two teams, Shongum Gold and Shongum Silver in both Rimfire and Center Fire Matches. The Team Members were Nick Abrishamian, Phyllis Bitow, John Cooke, Rob Litkenhaus, Bob Miranda, Paul Saacke, John Salegna, Steve Smith and Bruce Williams. Our Teams won two Trophies, Centerfire Class A First Place and Rimfire Class Second Place. The Annual Barbeque was once again hosted by Nick Abrishamian and everyone enjoyed Chester Meat Market Hamburgers and Hot Dogs. Nick's Homemade Pasta Salad was an added delight to the Barbeque. Thanks for your efforts Nick!

The third phase of our Waiting List Recruitment Program for the Pistol League will start this month

We are also exploring the introduction of a third relay to support growth in Pistol League participation. More information to follow

SAFETY ITEM: Empty Chamber Indicators (ECIs) are required on all uncased firearms on the shooting benches and they must be pointed down range.

We continue to extend an open invitation to club members to join us on Tuesday nights. Please call Tom Stapleton at 908-852-3901 for information on how to become a League Member.

Events – No Report. Rich reminded members to check the website calendar before making a trip the club to ensure there are no range closures which could alter your plans.

Operations—No Report. (See related Vice President notes)

Safety – No Report.

Training – No Report.

Hunting – No Report.

Cowboy Action – No Report.

USPSA – Ron Gumann reported that the October event went very well with a good turnout. Next match is Saturday, November 2nd. Ron asked members/participants to call or email him if interested.

Ladies Taking Aim (Woman's League) – Elizabeth M. reported the last Women's league of the year is on October 30th. Please feel free to bring your lady friends and family. We are looking for coaches if interested. We won't meet in November and December due to the holidays.

Black Powder – Rich Gadja reporting for **Stephen Serna** — Black Powder meets the second Sunday of the month from 10 am until 1 pm.

A few hearty souls showed up for a great rain day at the range last month. We are now year round on the second Sunday of the month. start time is 10 AM. Unless of course the weather is awful. So bring what you got and smoke them as always. First timers and spectators, even critics, are welcome, with or without a Black Powder firearm.

Membership—Greg Forte reported that they are caught up on everything and are working on cleaning up the database in preparation for a future migration to WildApricot.

1st Reading—Yes, and everyone is aware of the mandatory the New Member Orientation this coming Saturday

2nd Reading—None

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None

GOOD & WELFARE:

Phil Engert reported for Greg Lynch, stating that Greg would be running a Get Out The Vote phone outreach to our membership on Thursday, October 26th from 6-8pm. And if interested in helping, to contact Greg Lynch.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:18 PM

Calendar of Regular Events

Club Meeting - Third Wednesday of each month, begins at 7:30 PM.

CMP Rifle Match - Fourth Sunday of each month, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, First shot @ 10:00 AM.

Cowboy Action Shoot (CAS) - Third Sunday of each month, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM)

Executive Committee Meeting - First Monday of each month, begins at 7:00 PM.

USPSA - First Saturday of each month, January through December, 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

Junior League - Friday evenings (indoor range), refer to Web Site calendar, 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Pistol League - Every Tuesday evening, 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Trap Program - Every Sunday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
(Unless noted on the Web Site)
Every Tuesday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Women's League - Final Wednesday of each month, 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM.

Black Powder - Second Saturday of each month, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. In the colder months, start time moves forward to 11:00 AM.